

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 INT-08 DRC-01 /113 W

----- 081512

R 131030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 582

INFO CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMTWLEVE SAN FRANCISCO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3345

CINCPAC REP GUAM/TTPI PASS TO STATUS LNO TRENT, SAIPAN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

E.O. 11652: G S

TAGS: PFOR TQ JA EAID

SUBJ: MICRONESIAN CLAIMS: GOJ CONSIDERS PAYMENT TO PONAPEANS

REF: (A) STATE 47668; (B) TOKYO 3344

IN CONVERSATION SEPARATE FROM THAT DISCUSSED REF B,
EMBOFF DISCUSSED REF A WITH NUMATA OF FIRST NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION
FONOFF. NUMATA EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING. HE THEN ASKED IF THIS MEANT
THAT ALL CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUAL MICRONESIANS,
AS OPPOSED TO
DELEGATIONS, CONCERNING CLAIMS SHOULD BE THROUGH USG.
EMBOFF SAID THAT
HIS UNDERSTANDING (PARA 7 REFTTEL) WAS THAT ALL
SUCH CONTACTS SHOULD BE COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. NUMATA SAID
REASON HE POSED QUESTION WAS THAT GOJ WAS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING
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CONTACTING PONAPEAN CHIEF MAX IRIARTE, WHO IS HOSPITALIZED IN

TOKYO FOR TREATMENT OF AN EYE DISORDER, TO WORK OUT SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM OF PONAPEANS WHO WERE CONSCRIPTED BY JAPANESE TO WORK IN NEW GUINEA. ONE FORM OF SETTLEMENT BEING CONSIDERED IS LETTER FROM FONOFF PARLIAMENTARY VICE MINISTER HAMADA TO SIX PONAPEAN CHIEFS EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR SUFFERING OF THOSE CONCERNED, REITERATING THAT CLAIMS WERE SETTLED BY 1969 AGREEMENT, BUT ENCLOSING TOKEN PAYMENT FROM QUOTE CONCERNED JAPANESE UNQTE OF PERHAPS ONE MILLION YEN. GOJ WOULD TIE SUCH A SETTLEMENT TO PROVISION THAT IRIARTE WOULD TAKE DANIEL LOPEZ (WHO HAS BEEN IN JAPAN FOR ABOUT TWENTY MONTHS) BACK TO MICRONESIA WITH HIM, THEREBY ENDING EXPLOITATION OF HIS CASE BY OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES IN DIET.

2. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT WHILE THIS WAS PRIMARILY MATTER FOR GOJ TO DECIDE HE FEARED THAT SUCH A SETTLEMENT WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE OTHER MICRONESIAN CLAIMANTS TO APPROACH GOJ AND MIGHT COMPLICATE RATHER THAN SIMPLIFY CLAIMS PROBLEM.

COMMENT:

FONOFF IS FOCUSING ON IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF GETTING RID OF DANNY LOPEZ RATHER THAN BROADER ASPECTS OF MICRONESIAN CLAIMS, AND, AS WE INDICATED TO NUMATA, EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS A MISTAKE. WE HAVE ASKED FONOFF TO KEEP US FULLY INFORMED.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AGREEMENTS, DEPENDENCY GOVERNMENT, PROPERTY WAR CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TRUSTEESHIPS (UN), FINANCIAL PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO03345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740345/aaaabqoj.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 47668; (B) TOKYO 3344
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MICRONESIAN CLAIMS: GOJ CONSIDERS PAYMENT TO PONAPEANS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, TQ, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005